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ABSTRACT

To study the factors that cause some university departments to produce excellent research and provide excellent research training, this book considered the factors underlying research efforts in four innovative and three stagnant Swedish university departments in the social sciences. Data were gathered through interviews with 152 doctoral students, lecturers, and professors over 2 years. Findings refute the idea that the best way to counter threats to excellent research and teaching posed by mass university education is through government supervision and control, emphasizing instead the importance of the individual operational university units. The chapters are: (1) "In Pursuit of Academic Excellence"; (2) "Introducing the Study"; (3) "Picturing the Departments in Figures"; (4) "Collaboration and Intellectual Community"; (5) "Civicness and Social Cohesion"; (6) "Authority and Patterns of Hierarchy"; (7) "Stability, Institutional Change and the Road to Community"; (8) "Creativity: An Essential By-Product"; and (9) "Organising Innovative Research." (Contains 166 references.) (SLD)

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